

REMARKS

Claims 18, 19, 25 and 31 are now amended.

Claims 18 and 19 are amended to correct the typographical errors and to bring the phrase invoking a Markush group in compliance with the USPTO rules of practice ("selected from the group consisting of").

Claim 25 is amended to correct for a typographical error (an indefinite article is missing).

Claim 31 is amended to correct a typographical error that resulted in an improper antecedent basis, and to more particularly define the claimed subject matter. Specifically, Applicants note that Claim 31 is based on the original Claim 15 as it appears in the English translation of the present application as filed. Original Claim 15, in turn, depended on original Claims 13 and 14. Original Claims 13, 14 and 15 read:

13. A polymer electrolyte membrane coated with polyazoles as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 7 and 12.
14. A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising polyazoles as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 7 and 12.
15. A membrane-electrode unit comprising a polymer electrolyte membrane as claimed in claims 13 or 14.

By the Preliminary Amendment submitted by Applicants on January 5, 2005, original Claims 13 and 14 were revised and re-introduced as new Claims 30 and 32. The subject matter of original Claim 15 was divided between new Claims 31 and 33. However, through an inadvertent typographical error, new Claim 31 recited the phrase "ionomers of polyazoles in claim 12" instead of the phrase "polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 30". Applicants note that new Claim 33 does, indeed, recite the correct phrase "polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 32". Applicants finally note that a membrane electrode unit comprising ionomers of the polyazoles of Claim 1 is actually claimed in new Claim 35, which corresponds to original Claim 16.

As required by M.P.E.P. §714.16, Applicants further state that:

(A) The present amendment corrects obvious errors in the claims that adversely affects the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

(B) The proposed Amendment requires no additional search or examination because the present amendment does not affect the scope of base Claims 18 and 25.

(C) Claim 18, and the claims dependent thereon as amended are patentable for the reasons outlined above, in paragraph (B). Specifically, the scope of base Claim 18 is unaffected.

(D) Claims 18, 19, 25 and 31 have not been corrected earlier due to inadvertent oversight.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, entry of this amendment under Rule 312 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite entry of this amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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